



UFOs AND THE US EAST COAST BLACKOUT OF 1965

by David E. Wolin © 2005

In November 1965, the East Coast of the United States was plunged into a mysterious electrical blackout. Millions of people were without power for most of the night. Behind the scenes, in a secret military facility, the country was briefly poised at the brink of a nuclear war and, in case that wasn't exciting enough, all over the country there were reports of hovering UFOs...

Emergency at Mount Weather

On December 1, 1974, a TWA Boeing 727 jet crashed into a foggy Virginia mountainside, killing all 92 passengers. News reporters on the scene noticed a high-security military facility nearby and began investigating what it was used for. The *Washington Post* (December 2) determined that the secret base was known as Mount Weather. A military spokesman, while acknowledging the base existed, "politely declined to comment on what Mt Weather was used for, how many people work there, or how long it has been in its current use".

Over several years, details did gradually emerge about Mount Weather. The base seen by reporters is situated on 434 acres of land, but that is literally just the tip of the iceberg. Buried deep within the mountainside is

a massive, hidden fortress designed to house the president and other key government officials in the event of a nuclear war or some sort of significant catastrophe. The underground bunker contains most of the critical elements for survival including water, sewage treatment and electrical generators. It has been described as an underground city with a man-made lake, hospitals, office buildings, roads, sidewalks, television and radio production studios, massive computer networks and even a crematorium. It is alleged to be able to house several thousand people if needed, but who those people would be is, of course, Top Secret.

Military personnel at Mount Weather were responsible for monitoring a series of devices scattered throughout North America that were designed to detect evidence of nuclear explosions. In the event of a nuclear attack, the monitors would transmit a signal via a telegraph line to various manned locations.

On November 9, 1965, the "bomb alarms" began sending disturbing information back to Mount Weather. Twenty-one of the nuclear monitoring locations had mysteriously gone offline and the display board was lit up with flashing yellow lights. Of even greater concern was the fact that the sensors located in Salt Lake City, Utah, and Charlotte, North Carolina, all flashed red, indicating that nuclear explosions had actually occurred. As this was happening, much

of the East Coast including New York City experienced a power blackout that left 30 million people without electricity for as much as 13 hours.

Colonel J. Leo Bourassa was in charge of Mount Weather from its creation in the late 1950s. The Top Secret site officially fell under the control of the Office of Emergency Preparedness, which later became known as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA is the agency responsible for handling disasters like hurricanes and earthquakes and was responsible for dealing with the aftermath of 9/11. Aside from directing the government's response to these sort of events, FEMA is also responsible for ensuring the government can maintain its ability to function during a catastrophe.

From deep within the secret fortress, Bourassa became understandably convinced that the country was under a Soviet nuclear attack and put the Mount Weather facility on high alert. Bourassa had taken the first steps in preparation for United States involvement in an all-out nuclear war. Fortunately, the other branches of the military quickly determined the nature of the alarms and there was apparently no actual activation of the nuclear weapons systems. The matter quickly resolved itself, but is still regarded by many as a very close call.

If the nuclear alerts were triggered by the blackout, the question still remains: what caused the blackout?

Lights Out on the East Coast

It is believed that the blackout was triggered by a massive surge in power emanating from a power plant near Niagara Falls. The power companies are all connected on a grid; so when the first plant overloaded, the surge continued down the lines, knocking out power station after power station until most of the East Coast was without electricity. Officials from the utility companies were hard pressed to explain exactly why that happened.

They were even harder pressed to explain the mysterious lights and "fireballs" hovering near their equipment. Newspaper accounts at the time questioned whether there might be a link between the mysterious power surge and a series of UFO sightings near the various power facilities before, during and after the blackout.

The Niagara River flows between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario and acts as a natural border between the United States and Canada. The powerful waterway features Niagara Falls along its 35-mile route. It is actually a *group* of waterfalls; the two largest have become one of the most popular tourist attractions in North America.

A large portion of the rushing currents above the Falls gets diverted to power plants on either side of the border which provide a significant amount of the electricity for the East Coast. The Sir Adam Beck power plant on the Canadian side of the river was believed to be the source of the power surge.

The area around Niagara Falls was becoming known as a so-called "UFO hotspot" due to the number of sightings that occurred there. Shortly before the blackout, on September 22, 1965, the *Niagara Falls Gazette* featured a report about dozens of people witnessing UFOs hovering over the

power plants on the Niagara River and near the Falls:

"The objects, bright lights which changed color, were below the cloud level and remained at a fairly low level during most of the period they were observed. Observers said the objects were not helicopters or conventional aircraft. At one point, at about 8 pm, the two objects, which had been widely



Does this photo, which appeared in *Time Magazine* of November 19, 1965, capture UFO activity over Manhattan or is it just an optical illusion? The experts are split, but it is undeniable that there were numerous UFO sightings throughout the blackout region.

separated when viewed earlier, approached each other on a collision course until they 'teamed up' and moved off close together toward Buffalo."

On the afternoon of November 9, two pilots in Ohio radioed in a report about seeing two shiny, disc-shaped objects being pursued by military jets. The UFOs picked up speed and flew off, leaving the military in the dust. An hour later, the sightings in Niagara Falls began and shortly thereafter the lights started going out. Several people

reported bright lights in the sky and a pilot flying into Niagara Falls Airport reported seeing "a weird object" hovering over the Niagara Falls power plant.

The power surged down the line towards Syracuse, New York, and so did the reports of lights in the sky. As the lights went out, hundreds of witnesses in Syracuse reported seeing a series of "fireballs" hovering near the power lines. The flaming lights were sighted for several hours and were photographed by a local minister, William Stillwell, who described it as follows:

"The centre was rotating, around and around and around. It came from the direction of DeWitt [New York] and shot off at an angle and then went back the way it came."

Within minutes, the blackout spread to New York City and the rest of the East Coast. There were several reports of lights in the sky over New York, and a *Time Magazine* reporter captured a shot of what many believed to be a UFO above the darkened city.

The media seized on the UFO connection. There were numerous articles about the mysterious fireballs, and several editorials called for a government investigation. The *Indianapolis Star* was emphatic: "The answer is fairly obvious: unidentified flying objects! It is one angle the multipronged investigation should not overlook." The major TV networks took interest as well. On the NBC *Nightly News*, the subject of UFOs being spotted at the blackout locations was raised in front of millions of viewers.

Eventually, an official explanation for the blackout was offered. A minor piece of equipment had apparently malfunctioned and failed to stop the massive surge of electricity. This explanation seemed to quieten down some of the controversy. What was still not explained, however, was the source of the mysterious overload.

When the blackout hit, well-known Hollywood actor Stuart Whitman was stranded 12 storeys up in a Manhattan hotel. He claimed to have seen two glowing UFOs

hovering outside his window. The UFOs transmitted a message to him:

"They told me that they—the intelligence behind the UFOs—were responsible for the blackout. They said they had taken this action to prove to the people of the world that they are real and capable of phenomenal undertakings... They told me they are worried over our continued testing and development of nuclear weapons. This to them was a peaceful 'show of force'... They said the blackout was only a small demonstration of the power they possess to stop us from annihilating our civilization and nearby planets. They said in so many words that they will interfere if we go too far in our war-like attitudes. They claimed that they are able to stop all electrical apparatus from functioning, and could put a halt to our normal activities any time they wanted to!"

UFOs and Power Outages

Eventually there was a government investigation which addressed these issues. The United States Congress Committee on Science and Astronautics held hearings in 1968 and questioned Dr James McDonald from the University of Arizona on the link between UFOs and power outages.

The professor spoke about numerous instances where UFO sightings were followed by electrical disturbances ranging from radio interference and cars stalling to actual power blackouts. In discussing the 1965 blackout, the well-regarded astrophysicist told the congressmen:

"UFOs have often been seen hovering near power facilities. There are a small number but still a little too many to seem pure fortuitous chance, of system outages coincident with the UFO sighting... Even the famous one, the New York blackout [November 9, 1965], involved UFO sightings."

Thirty-eight years later, the source of the blackout still remains unsolved.

About the Author:

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RUSSIAN INDIGO CHILD PREDICTS DISASTER IN 2009

An unusual boy was born in the town of Volzhsky in the Volgograd region of Russia on January 11, 1996. When the mother, Nadezhda Kipriyanovich, returned home from the hospital with her son, she started noticing very curious things about him. The boy, named Boris, hardly ever cried and never suffered from any ailments. He was growing up like other children, but he started speaking whole phrases at the age of eight months. His parents gave the baby a meccano set and he started making geometrically correct figures from it, combining different parts with precision.

Boris, or Boriska, as his parents affectionately call him, was not even three when he started telling his parents about the universe.

"He could name all the planets of the solar system and even their satellites. He was showering me with names and numbers of galaxies. At first I found it very frightening—I thought that my son was out of his mind—but then I decided to check if those names really existed. I got some books on astronomy and I was shocked to find out that the boy knew so much about this science," Nadezhda said.

Rumours about a baby astronomer were spreading about the town faster than the speed of light. The boy became the local celebrity: people were curious about the child, and everybody wanted to understand how he could know so many things. Boriska was willing to tell his visitors of extraterrestrial civilisations, about the existence of an ancient race of humans that were

three metres in stature, and of future climate and global changes. Everyone was listening to the little boy with great interest, but they did not believe those stories.

The parents decided to baptise their child. Soon after that, Boriska started telling people of their sins and warning about forthcoming troubles and diseases, which created quite an unfavourable reputation for the boy's parents.

The boy is quite optimistic about Russia's future, though: "The situation in the country will be improving gradually. However, planet Earth will have to experience two very dangerous years—2009 and 2013. Those catastrophes will be connected with water," Boriska said.

While the world's leading space agencies are trying to find traces of life on Mars, eight-year-old Boriska tells his parents and friends everything he remembers about his past life in a Martian civilisation. Specialists say that he knows information which he cannot actually know.

"When we showed our boy to a variety of scientists, including ufologists, astronomers and historians, all of them agreed that it would be impossible to make all those stories up. Foreign languages and scientific terms which he says, are usually used by specialists studying this or that particular science," Boriska's mother said.

(Source: Pravda, October 29, 2005, http://english.pravda.ru/science/19/94/378/16387_Boriska.html; also see article dated March 12, 2005 at http://english.pravda.ru/science/19/94/377/12257_Martian.html)



"You're here for the UFO conference?"